

Planning and Assessment for Value-Added Enterprises

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The Planning and Assessment for Value-Added Enterprises (PAVE) program is available to producers who are considering establishing or expanding a value-added enterprise. Under this program, eligible producers can access funds to help pay for the services of a business planning professional to develop feasibility assessments and comprehensive business plans for specific, value-added enterprises. This program will make it easier for producers to make an informed decision on whether or not to pursue the opportunity.

What is a value-added enterprise?

A value-added enterprise includes:

- a project that can clearly demonstrate it adds value to a primary agricultural product produced by the applicant(s);
- an initiative that adds value to primary products through mechanical manipulation, including separating, grading, cleaning, and packaging product;
- food processing (such as the addition of a canning or pickling operation to a farm business); and,
- non-food activities (such as using hemp or straw to develop fibreboard, composting manure for gardens or producing methane).

Activities related to eligible projects can take place on or off the farm.

Eligibility

You are eligible to participate if:

- as an established producer, you have a minimum of \$10,000 in annual gross farm sales; or,
- as the owner/operator of a new farm business (i.e. you have been in operation for less than six years), you can demonstrate that you will have \$10,000 in annual gross farm sales.

Note

Groups are eligible to apply for PAVE funding. A "group application" refers to one application made under PAVE program by two or more individuals or entities. Each individual or entity in the group must represent an independent and separate farming business or operation.



Eligible participants will receive:

Funding for up to 50 per cent of the consultant's eligible costs for preparing a feasibility assessment and/or business plan, over the life of the program (April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2008) up to a maximum of:

- \$10,000 for one participant;
- \$20,000 for two participants; or,
- \$25,000 for three or more participants.

Note

Non-farmers, such as capital suppliers and processors, can also be members of a project team. However, non-farmers are not eligible for PAVE funding. Total government (federal/provincial/territorial/municipal) assistance will not exceed 75 per cent of eligible expenditures. Funding from more than one Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada source for these projects is not permitted.

For more information:

More information on PAVE or other Renewal initiatives can be obtained by calling **1 866 452-5558** or from the Web site at **www.agr.gc.ca/renewal**.

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